

We do not want to be associated in the matter of investigations because it is primarily their responsibility

About the expenses—It does not arise out of this—I have not got the figures with me at the moment

श्री शिवरंजन राय : क्या विदेश मंत्री जी बतायेंगे कि इस बात को ध्यान में रख कर कि युद्धबन्धियों का सबाल भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच का सबाल भ्रम न रह कर धीरे धीरे अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सबाल बनता जा रहा है और इस पर एक इस्लामिक मीट भी अभी हो चुकी है और उम्हें एक प्रस्ताव इस मिलसिले में पाम किया है जिस की जानकारी भारत सरकार को भी है। इन सब बातों को ध्यान में रख कर इस बीच में बगला देश की सरकार और भारत सरकार में जा बात हुई है क्या उस में कहीं किसी स्तर पर यह खर्चा आयी है कि जो बन्दी बिल्कुल निर्दोष हैं जिन पर दूर दराज में भी कोई केस चलाने की सम्भावना नहीं है उन को छोड़ कर बाकी पर मुकदमा चलाया जाय ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH The question of the settlement of the prisoners of war is a matter in which we have said that the final settlement can take place with the agreement of both India and Bangladesh. That position continues.

The hon Member has mentioned that in the Islamic meet there was some talk about the prisoners of war. Well, we cannot prevent meets of that nature or other nature to carry on talks or make observations. But they are not totally irrelevant so far as we are concerned. None of any such organisations has got any right to advise us or to tell us as to what should be done. It is primarily a matter between Pakistan on the one side and India and Bangladesh on the other. I think everybody knows that India will refuse to be pressurised on this score. That

does not mean that we are not aware of the necessity of finding a just and satisfactory solution of this problem, and that is a matter which is engaging our very serious attention.

Amount spent on settlement of East and West Pakistan Refugees

\*703 SHRIMATI MAYA RAY Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state

(a) what is the total amount received by the West Pakistan Refugees and East Pakistan Refugees respectively by way of compensation, and

(b) whether further sums are to be allotted for the complete rehabilitation of the East Pakistan refugees in the Fifth Five Year Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI G VENKATSWAMY) (a) Upto 28th February 1973 an amount of Rs 191.28 crores has been paid by way of compensation to Displaced Persons who held verified claims and as rehabilitation grant under the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act and Rules framed thereunder to those displaced persons who did not file claims or who came late from the former West Pakistan (now Pakistan)

Under the Nehru-Liaquat Pact of April, 1940 the migrants from East Pakistan retained proprietary rights in the properties left behind by them and they they could sell exchange or dispose of their properties in any manner they liked. Hence no compensation was paid to them.

(b) Taking into account the magnitude of the problem provision will be made in the Fifth Five Year Plan for the rehabilitation of migrants from the former East Pakistan.

SHRIMATI MAYA RAY Inasmuch as the Nehru-Liaquat Ali Pact eventually turned out to be completely abortive and

to take cover under it is a mere sophistry, and inasmuch as these East Pakistan refugees did not receive any compensation for the property left behind them in erstwhile East Pakistan and, inasmuch as these East Pakistan refugees are unable to obtain any monetary assistance, from the Government or any other financial institution because they do not have any right title or interest in the land they occupy, does the Government have any plan to grant every refugee family a developed plot of homestead land as a gift from the State in this year of our Silver Jubilee Anniversary of Independence?

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY):** Efforts are being made to rehabilitate these persons in various States in this country.

**SHRIMATI MAYA RAY:** Inasmuch as in regard to the western region 19 new full-fledged townships and 136 colonies, as suburbs of existing towns and cities, came into existence containing full civic amenities, such as, schools, hospitals, shopping centres and industrial centres forming viable units—this is according to publications of the Union Ministry of Rehabilitation—does the Government have any plan for similar standards of development for the eastern region in the course of the next five years?

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:** The Government is making plans for rehabilitating these persons and an exercise is being done in the course of the next Five Year Plan.

**SHRIMATI JYOTSNA CHANDA:** So far as I understand from the reply of the hon. Minister, no such plan has been made in the Five Year Plan to help the refugees of East Pakistan. I want to know whether the Government will consider about refugees who are in Assam and who could not be rehabilitated due to failure of the Indian Tea Association's scheme, particularly in my district of Cachar during the Fifth Plan.

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:** I am not able to give particular details about the district of Cachar. But as far as the Fifth Plan is concerned, as I have already said, an exercise is being carried out in regard to Plan and non-Plan expenditure with regard to this aspect of the problem.

**SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:** Has the hon. Minister received any master plan from the West Bengal State Government regarding the rehabilitation of East Pakistan refugees and, if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:** Yes, Sir. The Government has received master plan from the West Bengal Government for Rs. 144 crores. The master plan has been referred to the Committee of Review and we are awaiting the recommendations of the Committee of Review.

**SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE:** The hon. Minister has assured that something will be done in the Fifth Plan to rehabilitate the unfortunate refugees from East Pakistan. May I know why Government took such a long time to make a plan for the rehabilitation of these unfortunate refugees who are the floating population of West Bengal and are creating political turmoil in that State?

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:** Government has been doing everything to rehabilitate these persons. I have made this clear on several occasions. With regard to the Fifth Five-Year Plan, as I have said, an exercise is being carried out with regard to both plan and non-plan expenditure in order to deal with this problem.

**श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी :** पश्चिमी पाकिस्तान से आए हुए, विशेषतः सिन्ध से आए हुए शरणार्थियों के सेटिलमेंट क्लेम्स बहुत सालों से लटके पड़े हुए हैं, क्या उन को जल्दी से जल्दी पूरा कराने की कोशिश करेंगे और वह कब तक फाइनालाइज्ड हो जाएंगे, यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे ।

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:** Regarding refugees from West Pakistan, the major problem has been settled, and whatsoever minor problems are there with regard to a small number of families every step is being taken in order to solve them.

**SHRI MUHAMMED KHUDA BAKHSH:** May I know whether they have finalised the processes and procedure for the payment of 25 per cent as *ad hoc* grant on the value of properties left behind in East Pakistan—now Bangladesh—by the refugees?

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:** I do not have any information about this immediately.

#### High Level Talks with Pakistan..

\* 704. **SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:**

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the Press Report in the *Hindustan Times* dated the 15th March, 1973 under the heading 'High-level talks with Pak sought';

(b) if so, whether he has stated to the Australian Correspondent that India wanted a high-level conference between the two countries to normalise relations; and

(c) if so, whether Pakistan has also desired the same?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). My remarks to the Australian Correspondent on the subject were in line with my earlier statements in the House. I have all along said that Government would welcome bilateral negotiations with Pakistan to resolve mutual problems. In our view summit-level talks should be preceded by adequate preparation through discussions at other

levels so that the summit, when it takes place, produces the desired results. No suggestion for officials-level meeting has been received from Pakistan so far.

**SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:** The President of Pakistan, Mr. Z. A. Bhutto, always accuses the Government of India for non-implementation of the Simla Agreement. But we feel that Pakistan is standing in between and the Simla Agreement is not being implemented. In view of the experience of the Simla Agreement, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he feels it or not that a package deal is necessary to normalise relations with Pakistan, and if he thinks like that, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India has finalised any details of the issues to be settled with Pakistan before the release of POWs.

**SHRI SWARAN SINGH:** There is no doubt that it would be more desirable if a package deal could materialise and could be struck. But at the same time it will not be very wise not to settle matters in the absence of a package deal. Anything that is settled and is out of the way is a step towards normalisation and, therefore, should not be rejected.

In view of my reply to the first part of his query, there is no need to answer his second part in which he asks whether we have finalised the issues that should be incorporated in the package deal. I would like to say that some of the important issues have been spelt out in the Simla Agreement, and both sides have agreed that those should be settled without the use of force, by mutual agreement.

**SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:** The hon. Minister has said that most of the issues have been spelt out in the Simla Agreement. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the various issues like recognition of Bangla Desh, release of Bangla Desh refugees who have been retained in Pakista, compensation for the refugees, war compensation, etc., had been spelt out in the Simla Agreement.