

LOK SABHA

Friday, September 7, 1962/Bhadra 16,
1884 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair].

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Central Aid to West Bengal Displaced
Persons

848. { Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Dr. U. Misra:

Will the Minister of Works, Housing
and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of West
Bengal asked for Central aid for the
years 1960-61, 1961-62 and 1962-63 to
solve the problem of displaced per-
sons;

(b) whether the amount asked for
had been sanctioned by Central Gov-
ernment; and

(c) if so, the amount sanctioned?

The Minister of Works, Housing
and Supply (Shri Mehr Chand
Khanna): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Funds are made avail-
able to the Government of West
Bengal for rehabilitation of displaced
persons from East Pakistan, from year
to year. During the years 1960-61 and
1961-62, a sum of Rs. 587.43 lakhs and
Rs. 451.00 lakhs respectively were
sanctioned. A sum of Rs. 461.98 lakhs
has been provided in the Budget Esti-
mates for 1962-63.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: I want to
know how these amounts which have
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been sanctioned compare with the
actual requests made by the State
Government. Are they the amounts
asked for, or more, or less?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The
general custom or the custom that has
prevailed all these years is this. We
get the requests from the State Gov-
ernments. These are examined and
discussed with the State Governments.
Certain allocations are suggested to
the Ministry of Finance and at the
time of Budget certain provision is
made to each Ministry. On the basis
of that we make the allocation to the
State Governments.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Is it a fact that
the State Government of West Bengal
through its Chief Minister has made
representations that the amounts
sanctioned by the Centre are not ade-
quate and that in order to meet the
residuary problem they require a
larger help from the Centre?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I do not
think it would be correct. The resi-
duary problem has been discussed by
me with the former Chief Minister
who is no longer with us now and also
the present Chief Minister who was
my colleague. These amounts have
been fixed after these discussions.
There may be a minor difference here
and there but by and large there is
complete agreement between us.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What were the
amounts demanded by the State Gov-
ernment during the years 1960-61,
1961-62, 1962-63 and how do they com-
pare with the amounts sanctioned?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I have al-
ready answered that question in reply
to a supplementary by Shri Indrajit
Gupta.

Dr. Ranen Sen: Is it a fact that the West Bengal Chief Minister has recently asked for aid of Rs. 51 crores from the Central Government for this purpose?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: No, Sir. In fact we discussed the question of residuary problem not long ago and except for some minor matter here or there, there is no difference of opinion between us at all.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: May I know whether the West Bengal Government submits schemes for the residuary problems that are still to be solved and then sanction is made and then a demand is placed for the whole of them and then the Central Government consider it and sanctions the amount?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The residuary problem as such has been discussed and examined between us—various items relating to the residuary problem. The very questions that have been asked indicate one thing the quantum of the residuary problem, the amount asked for and the amount agreed to between us and the Government of West Bengal.

Shri H. P. Chatterjee: What is the sum the West Bengal Government asked for the recent influx of displaced persons—I mean the 11,000 persons that have come recently. What is the sum the West Bengal Government asked for? Is it a fact that these persons are shelterless and have no food and are in great distress?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I will answer the second part of the question in the negative. We have tried to rehabilitate them; we have tried to give them relief. But they are not traceable. As regards the first part, Government of West Bengal hardly comes into the picture because the Government of India has accepted the responsibility of taking them to Dandakaranya and rehabilitating them there and the cent per cent expenditure devolves on the Government of India.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether any amount has been granted to the Corporation of Calcutta in response to their appeals made for providing civic amenities to the refugees who are living in *bastis* and unauthorised colonies?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I do not remember any specific requests having been made by the Corporation of Calcutta. The squatters' problem in Calcutta could be divided into two parts, those which come normally in the vicinity of Calcutta and those which form part of the Tollygunj scheme. That scheme has been examined in details. A blue print is to be prepared. There are going to be three parties to that scheme—the Corporation of Calcutta, the Government of West Bengal and the Government of India. We accept the responsibility on behalf of the Government of India.

Q Jute Production

*851. **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the position of Jute production during July, 1962 and how far we have improved our production;

(b) whether huge stocks of products have been sacked up in factories due to the fall in market; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Jute goods production in July, 1962 was 103,500 tons; and this was the highest on record in any month in the last 15 years.

(b) and (c). The stocks have not been abnormal considering the increased production and demand and export.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether there was a representation from the Indian Jute Mills Association that they could not maintain