

LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 30, 1962/Bhadra 8,  
1884 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Exodus of Minority Community  
from East Pakistan

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Shri P. R. Chakraverti:  
Shri P. K. Deo:  
Shri Narendra Singh  
Mahida:  
Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
Shri S. C. Samanta:  
Shri Subodh Hansda:  
Shri B. K. Das:  
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:  
Shri Indrajit Gupta:  
Shri Shree Narayan Das:  
Shri P. C. Borooah:  
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:  
Shri Bhakt Darshan:  
Shri Tridib Kumar

Chaudhuri:

\*697. { Shri Rameshwar Tantia:  
Shri Sarkar Murmu:  
Shri A. K. Gopalan:  
Shri Imbichibawa:  
Shri Yashpal Singh:  
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:  
Shri Rishang Keishing:  
Shri Ram Ratan Gupta:  
Dr. U. Misra:  
Shrimati Renu  
Chakravartty:  
Shri Raghunath Singh:  
Shri Hem Barua:  
Shri H. C. Soy:  
Shri Besra:  
Shri Marandi:

(a) whether there has been large scale exodus of Santhals, Rajbanshi and other classes of minority community from East Pakistan to India;

(b) if so, the total number of such persons who have crossed over to India till the end of June, 1962;

(c) what measures have been adopted by Government in giving relief to these helpless people; and

(d) whether and how Government propose to rehabilitate them?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) and (b). According to the information given by the Government of West Bengal, about 11,000 Santhals had come from East Pakistan to India till the end of July, 1962.

(c) Families in extreme distress get relief from the State Government under the Gratuitous Relief Scheme.

(d) It was decided in the first instance to rehabilitate 1,000 Santhals in Dandakaranya.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: Are these relief measures taken up on an *ad hoc* basis or in pursuance of the policy which will now be applied to the displaced persons?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): An emergent situation arose and we took certain decisions. That is the position for the present.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: In consideration of the circumstances that compelled these people to cross the frontiers even at the cost of their lives, do Government propose to revise the earlier policy of treating the displaced persons as immigrants and not as migrants?

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

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**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** These persons can be divided under two heads, one, all those who have been coming right from 1958 by taking migration certificates where it is clearly laid down that they will not ask for any relief or rehabilitation benefits. The others are those who have now come within the last 3 or 4 months, mostly Santhals, numbering about 11,000. In their case, they have no migration certificates. We have considered the matter; and we are giving them every possible help, relief and rehabilitation assistance.

**Shri Subodh Hansda:** The Minister stated that thousands of families will be rehabilitated in the Dandakaranya area. May I know whether it is a fact that many of the Santhals refuse to go to that Dandakaranya area? If so, what is the reason for their not accepting the offer?

**Shri P. S. Naskar:** It is a fact that at the beginning only a few Santhals did agree to go to the Dandakaranya area because certain vested interests in West Bengal floated a rumour that Dandakaranya was full of demons and tigers. Lately, a batch of the leaders of the Santhals has gone to Dandakaranya to see things for themselves. As the hon. Member might have read in the newspapers, they came back with great satisfaction; and they are asking their people to go to Dandakaranya. And, for the information of the House, I may say that in a day or two 30 to 40 more families will be going there and some more will be going later on.

**श्री भक्त दर्शन :** श्रीमन्, यह बताया गया है कि राज्य सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में पूर्वी पाकिस्तान से आये हुए विस्थापितों को सहायता देगी। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ केन्द्रीय सरकार ने इस के लिये अपनी ओर से क्या कोई कदम उठाये हैं और कितनी सहायता दी है?

**श्री मेहरचन्द खन्ना :** सहायता दो किस्म की होती है। एक तो रिलीफ की शकल

में होती है और दूसरे रिहैबिलिटेशन की शकल में। रिहैबिलिटेशन के लिये तो हम ने फैसला किया है कि हम दण्डकारण्य में यह करेंगे। जहाँ तक रिलीफ का ताल्लुक है प्रान्तीय सरकार उन को देती रही है। लेकिन रिलीफ तो उस को दिया जाता है जो रिलीफ लेने के लिये आये। अगर कोई आये न तो रिलीफ किस को दें।

**Shri B. K. Das:** May I know what arrangements will be made for those persons who are not agriculturists and who cannot be rehabilitated in Dandakaranya?

**Shri P. S. Naskar:** The Santhals are agriculturists.

**Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** Apart from thousands of Santhals who are being settled in Dandakaranya, what is the Government's decision with regard to the Rajbansis and non-Santhals who have come over and may I know whether any scheme has been formulated with regard to them?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** Out of the 11,000 persons who are reported to have come without migration certificates, the number of Santhals is round about 9,500; and the remaining 1,000 and some 500 more, we are prepared to consider their cases, provided they have come during this period. As far as rehabilitation is concerned, there is a policy laid down in the Dandakaranya scheme and they are being dealt with under that scheme.

**Shri Hem Barua:** In view of the fact that there has been tension in Rajshahi and adjoining districts of East Pakistan till now and there has been an exodus of the minority community to this country, may I know whether Government propose to formulate a plan to rehabilitate all those people who have been coming in?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** I can only rehabilitate those who want to be rehabilitated.

**Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:** What is the percentage of minorities that have come over here and what is the percentage that is left over there?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** That has nothing to do with this question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Have they any information?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** I never said that we have no information. I said that it has nothing to do with this question as the main question is about the minorities who have come over to India.

**Mr. Speaker:** If information is available, that may be given.

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** The question should be addressed to the Ministry of External Affairs. I am only concerned about the Santhals in a limited way, about those who have come over here.

**Mr. Speaker:** The other minorities was also put down in the question Rajbhansis and others. What percentage has come and what remains?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** I have just answered that of the 11,000 persons who have come with no migration certificates, about 9500 are Santhals and the remaining 1500, non-Santhals.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know whether the Government has taken steps to consult the Government of Bihar to settle some of these Santhals who have come over to our country in Santhal Parganas in Bihar and what is their reaction?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** At present we are only considering the rehabilitation of these people in Dandakaranya.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Out of these 11,000 Santhals who have come over during the last 3-4 months, what is the actual number who have actually

applied to the Government for relief and what is the scale on which they are being given relief?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** The relief that was given in the early stages, within the first few days under the State gratuity scheme, was a small amount. This was raised in this Parliament and we also looked into the matter. Immediately I got in touch with the Chief Minister of West Bengal. I told him that we will be willing to give some additional amount and if he wanted some money immediately, I could also place at his disposal a small amount from my discretionary grant. But the Chief Minister told me that there was no one to take the relief.

**श्री यशपाल सिंह :** क्या सरकार को पता है कि वे लोग बहुत दुखी और परेशान हालत में हैं ? न वे माइग्रेशन सर्टिफिकेट ले सकते हैं और न ही रिलीफ के लिये सरकार के पास आ सकते हैं । ऐसी हालत में क्या सरकार खुद उन को इमदाद देने के लिये तैयार है ?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** गवर्नमेंट क्या उन के पास जाय ?

**Shri Abdul Ghani Goni:** May I know whether the migration on a large scale is due to economic depression there or due to discriminatory treatment meted out to them?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** That question should be very appropriately put to the Ministry of External Affairs.

**श्रीयोगिक सहकारिता कार्यकारी बल**

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श्री स० चं० सामन्त :  
श्री ब० कु० दास :  
श्री सुबोध हंसदा :

क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) श्रीयोगिक सहकारिता कार्यकारी