

No. 4 on the 6th August, 1962 and state:

(a) whether the investigation into the death in December, 1961 of Shri A. K. Mitra, the then First Secretary in the Indian Embassy at Vienna (Austria) has been concluded; and

(b) if so, what are the findings and conclusions?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Police Report forwarded by the Austrian Foreign Office is inconclusive. While discounting the possibility that Shri Mitra's death was caused by a crime, the report indicates that it may be a case of suicide, on the basis of circumstantial evidence. We have been informed that this is the final report of the Police and that there is nothing further to enquire about.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Which agencies were engaged in the investigation of the death of Mr. Mitra—various agencies?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** The Austrian agency.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Is it not a fact that besides the Austrian Government, as the House was told in the last session, Interpol as well as the Indian representative from Government or from the Indian Embassy in Vienna cooperated with the Austrian Government's agency investigating the death of Mr. Mitra? If so, is this a joint report by all the three or only that of the Austrian Government?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs, Defence and Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** We gave them such help and information as we could but the enquiry was done purely by the Austrian Government's police and their representatives.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Is the Government aware of the fact that a responsible British journal called *Topic* had a very elaborate write-up on this unfortunate incident, and if so,

is it not proposed to pursue this matter or to have further investigations in this matter?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** The hon. Member must remember that this unfortunate tragedy occurred in a foreign country and it is that foreign country that has to enquire. We cannot send a team from here to enquire into it just as we would not permit, if something happened here, other policemen and others to come and roam about in India. I do not know of the paper that the hon. Member referred to; I have never heard of it.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** I will send a copy of it.

**Shri Hem Barua:** I have a copy with me. In view of the fact that this London magazine *Topic* makes certain serious allegations against certain financial tycoons in this country engaged in gold smuggling, who are supposed to be responsible for this unfortunate death of Mr. Maitra, may I know whether this aspect of the problem was also taken into account or enquired into?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** All these allegations were enquired into and they were found to be baseless.

#### Rehabilitation of Santhal Refugees

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\*18. { **Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:**  
      } **Shri P. R. Chakraverti:**

Will the Minister of Works, Housing (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) Yes.

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the report published in the Calcutta edition of the *Statesman* dated the 21st September, 1962 that a total of 450 Santhal refugees coming from the Rajshahi district of East Pakistan into Malda are being settled in the Kamrup district in Assam;

(b) whether they are being taken to Assam and settled there on the initiative of the Central Government or by mutual agreement between the

two State Governments concerned; and

(c) why they were not sent to Dandakaranya?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar):** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Government of Assam reported in July last that about 480 Santhal migrants had entered the State through West Bengal and were staying in various places in Kamrup district. They have been asked to submit their proposals in regard to the rehabilitation assistance to be given to these families. The proposals are still awaited.

**Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** May I know if the original proposal from the Central Government was to send these refugees to Dandakaranya? What caused them to change that policy and send them to Assam?

**Shri P. S. Naskar:** These people entered Assam; they were not sent to Assam.

**Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** Apart from these 45 refugees, what has happened to the other Santhal refugees? Have they been sent actually to Dandakaranya and rehabilitated there?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna):** Only about three or four days ago, I had a meeting with the Chief Minister of West Bengal and the Rehabilitation Minister of West Bengal, and we have decided to send about 3,000 families from West Bengal to Dandakaranya during this season, and it is hoped that about 500 of these families will be from among the Santhals, who have come from East Pakistan into West Bengal.

**Shri P. R. Chakraverti:** In view of the fact that the Assam Government has written to the Government of India to have some of the refugees who could not be accommodated there, would it be proper to add to the burden of the Assam Government?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** The point is this: we have to take into consideration the land reclaimed in Dandakaranya. According to my estimate, I will not be able to reclaim land to rehabilitate more than 5,000 families, and if the tribal population has to be taken into consideration, for which there is a fixed quota of 25 per cent, I cannot take more than 3,000 or 3,500. We have more than this number in West Bengal itself, and I have to rehabilitate all those unfortunate persons. If it can be done with Assam with Government finances, there can be no question of taking them into Dandakaranya.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I know if the Government have got any scheme for rehabilitating the large number of migrants who have come from East Bengal, besides the Santhals?

**Mr. Speaker:** Let us deal with the Santhal refugees, which alone is the subject-matter of this question.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** I would like to know whether the confusion which was existing for several months between the attitude of the Central Government and the West Bengal State Government regarding the exact status of those refugees who have come from Rajshahi—whether they are eligible or not for receiving rehabilitation assistance—has been cleared up now, and what is the present position.

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** As I answered in the last session, I shall repeat it today: that there is no confusion or disagreement of opinion between us and the Government of West Bengal with regard to the migrants and the Santhals. We are adopting a policy which is agreeable to both of us.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** I want to know whether some of the Santhal refugees have expressed their willingness to go to Santhal Parganas in Bihar and, if so, whether the Bihar Government have been approached in this connection and what is their reaction.

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** If the hon. Member writes to me about it I shall look into it.

**Shri Basumatari:** What is the number of refugees who have been rehabilitated in Assam up till now?

**Mr. Speaker:** About the Santhals?

**Shri Basumatari:** Including all.

**Mr. Speaker:** No. Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri.

**Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** The Minister just now stated that he has agreed with the West Bengal Government that about 3,000 families will be sent to Dandakaranya for immediate rehabilitation in this season. Can I get any idea whether these 3,000 people, apart from Santhals, will consist only of the old refugees or of new migrants also?

**Mr. Speaker:** Apart from Santhals?

**Shri Tridib Kumari Chaudhuri:** There are new migrants.

**Mr. Speaker:** We are dealing only with Santhals. I should have stopped him, but I did not. Dr. L. M. Singhvi.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** Will the hon. Minister tell us whether these Santhals have been fully rehabilitated in Dandakaranya or any other region?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** We are looking after the rehabilitation of those whom we have taken. About those who have declined to come, I cannot do anything for them.

#### Import Restrictions

- \*19.  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Shri S. M. Banerjee:} \\ \text{Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:} \\ \text{Shri Daji:} \\ \text{Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:} \end{array} \right.$

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been considering to impose further restrictions on imports; and

(b) if so, Government's final decision in this regard?

**The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) and (b). The question of allocation of the total amount of foreign exchange for commercial imports for the half-year October 1962—March 1963 is under consideration.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know when a final decision is likely to be taken?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** As the House is aware, the last period when we actually issued import licences was after 15th August. We have to take a very careful view of the present emergency situation and the need for conserving foreign exchange and those purposes. So, the examination has to be very thorough, and it will take sometime.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Export of Embroidered Cloth

- \*20.  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Shri Rameshwar Tantia:} \\ \text{Shri M. L. Dwivedi:} \\ \text{Shri Basumatari:} \\ \text{Shri Balmiki:} \end{array} \right.$

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 36 on the 6th August, 1962 and state:

(a) whether any steps have been devised to make our embroidered cloth competitive in the world market;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the present extent of the exports of such cloth?

**The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) to (c). A scheme for grant of Incentives for export of embroidered goods with cotton cloth as the basic ground