

Mr. Speaker: The real question is in the latter part: do the Government propose to liberalise those restrictions?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would like to liberalise; only I have not got the wherewithals.

Shri Kapur Singh: Sir, there is no fallacy of *petitio principii* involved in my question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The answer has been given. Shri Swell.

Shri Swell: In answer to the question of Shri Hem Barua, the Deputy Minister has given only suppositions, but the question is, have the Government made a study of the *modus operandi* of these blackmarketeers in foreign exchange.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The Enforcement Directorate have, I presume, to make this study continuously without which there is no reason for their existence.

Shri Heda: May I know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the permission given to certain firms and shops in important hotels to accept the foreign exchange at the Government rates gives ample scope to create a black market for them?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I take the information of the hon. Member.

Loans of Displaced Persons from Pakistan

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- *334. { **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:
Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:
Shri Koya:
Shri M. Rampure:
Shri Chuni Lal:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to write off the loans to the tune of

Rs. 80 crores advanced to the displaced persons from Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether this proposal has been finalised; and

(c) the reasons for writing off the loans?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) to (c). There is no proposal for any general remission of loans advanced to the displaced persons from West Pakistan. So far as the loans paid to the East Pakistan displaced persons are concerned, the question whether a part of these loans should be remitted, and, if so, to what extent, is under consideration.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any enquiry has been made as to why they have not been able to repay the loans, though the loans were granted for gainful business and other things?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: In the initial stages the loans were advanced and they were then rather of a small nature, and they were also given in dribbles. That is the reason why we have not been able to realise the loans. But loans in the later stages were given on a rational basis, and we feel there should be no difficulty in the realisation of those loans, because they were given bigger sums and they were integrated loans and for specific projects.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that the loans were given in instalments and not in lump sums and therefore they could not utilise the loans for the purpose meant?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I have said that in the initial stages the loans were given in dribbles; and they were small loans.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I find that in the eastern sector, no money has been given in the form of compensation. Why is it that the Government has not yet taken a policy decision whether the loans

given to the East Pakistan refugees can be written off?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: These two things are quite separate. Payment of compensation has nothing to do with the remission of loans. Payment of compensation has been made in the Western region because there was evacuee property law. In the Eastern region, there is no evacuee property law. Under the agreement of the two Prime Ministers, famously known as the Nehru-Liaquat Pact, the East Pakistan displaced persons can hold on to their property, realise rents and even sell the property.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know if the Minister had several conferences with the West Bengal Government over the question of remission of loans granted to East Pakistan refugees, and may I know whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government has recommended that these loans up to a certain limit should be remitted and written off?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The reply is in the affirmative. We have taken a tentative decision that loans up to a particular limit should be written off and beyond that limit, loans should be scaled down. We are trying to find out the financial implications of the suggestions that have been placed before us. Only a month or two ago, I asked the Chief Minister of West Bengal to give me the data on those loans. When the data is received, Government will be in a position to take a firm decision.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : पश्चिमी पाकिस्तान से आये हुए कुछ शरणार्थी हमारे जिले में बसाये गये हैं उनकी हालत तो थोड़ी सुधर गयी है, लेकिन पूर्वी पाकिस्तान के जो शरणार्थी मेरे जिले में बसाये गए हैं उनकी हालत डावांढोल है। इस बात को देखते हुए, क्या सरकार ने विचार किया है कि उन के कर्जों को माफ़ कर दिया जाय ?

श्री मेहर चन्द खन्ना : जी, मैंने यही जवाब दिया है कि मशरकी पाकिस्तान से जो

शरणार्थी आए हैं उनकी हालत अच्छी नहीं है, इसलिये हम सोच रहे हैं कि उनका कर्ज किसी हद तक कम कर दिया जाय या माफ़ कर दिया जाय ।

श्री काशीराम गुप्त : जो पुरुषार्थी जमीनों पर बसाये गये हैं और जिनके क्लेम बहुत कम हैं, उनके कर्जों को छोड़ने के लिये सरकार ने वायदा किया था। मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस विचारार्थीन मामले में क्या उनका भी समावेश है ?

श्री मेहर चन्द खन्ना : मेरे ख्याल में आप का इशारा मगरबी पाकिस्तान के शरणार्थियों की तरफ है ?

श्री काशी राम गुप्त : पश्चिमी पाकिस्तान से जो शरणार्थी आये थे उनमें से कुछ अलवर और भरतपुर में बसाये गए हैं। सरकार ने वायदा किया था कि उन में से जिन के क्लेम २० हजार से कम होंगे उन के कर्ज छोड़ दिए जायेंगे। क्या इस मामले में उनका ख्याल भी विचारार्थीन है ?

श्री मेहर चन्द खन्ना : मेरे ख्याल में जो बात आनरेबल मेम्बर ने फरमायी है वह टुरुस्त नहीं है। जो अलवर और भरतपुर में शरणार्थी बसाये गए हैं वे आम तौर पर देहाती शरणार्थी हैं। उनकी पोजीशन यह है कि जो जमीनें वे पाकिस्तान में छोड़ आये, उनके बदले में हमने उनको जमीनें दी।

श्री काशी राम गुप्त : वह नहीं है ।

श्री मेहर चन्द खन्ना : मैं अर्ज कर रहा हूँ। जो जमीन के मालिक नहीं थे उनको हम ने जमीनें एलाट की हैं रिहैबिलिटेशन के लिये और उनको रुपया कर्जा दिया है, वह रुपया वापस आना है। लेकिन इस बारे में किसी हद तक राजस्थान सरकार से फंसला

हुआ है, तफसीलात में नहीं जानता, और कुछ न कुछ आर्डर दिया गया है। लेकिन उसके बारे में मैं आज जवाब नहीं दे सकता।

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: While replying to a supplementary, the hon. Minister has stated that the position of the East Bengal refugees is quite different and that they can go and sell their property in Pakistan. Keeping in view the present precarious situation, can anybody hope that they can go to Pakistan and sell their property? What action has Government taken to give them some other relief?

Mr. Speaker: She is arguing the case and not asking for any information.

Dr. Ranen Sen: It is a known fact that most of the refugees from East Pakistan did not get any rehabilitation grant nor did they get any compensation or adequate loans. Whatever loans were given, the amount was too inadequate. In view of this fact, may I know whether the Government will again consider the desirability of writing off these loans?

Mr. Speaker: It is a suggestion for action.

Shri Kapur Singh: A figure of Rs. 80 crores of unredeemed loans has been mentioned. May I ask for a break-up of this figure in respect of West Pakistan and East Pakistan?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The amount given to West Pakistan displaced persons was about Rs. 60 crores. The major portion of these loans was treated as public dues. They were adjusted against the claims that were given to the displaced persons from West Pakistan. So, on that account a large portion of the loan has been realised. As regards the loan that is given to displaced persons from East Pakistan, the total there is Rs. 80 crores to Rs. 82 crores, and only a very small part of it—maybe a few crores—has been realised.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know what is the ceiling up to which it is proposed to write off the loans and up to what point the loans will be lowered on a graded scale? What is it that you are considering?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: As soon as we receive a reply from West Bengal, we should be in a position to take a final decision because big financial implications are involved there.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: In addition to those displaced persons who are in West Bengal, there are displaced persons in Uttar Pradesh and other States who were given meagre loans of Rs. 1000 or even Rs. 500. I want to know whether in their cases also there is going to be this 'writing off'?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Whatever decision is taken with regard to the displaced persons settled in West Bengal, it will equally apply to those displaced persons who are in Assam, Tripura, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh etc. May I add, Sir, that this decision only covers those displaced persons who have already come to India and we are not treating the new ones on the same level as yet.

Shri Swell: The hon. Minister has said that he has been in touch with the Chief Minister of West Bengal for writing off a certain percentage of these loans or scaling them down. May I know what will be the fate of those displaced persons who have come to Assam? Is he in touch with the Government of Assam for the same purpose?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: We will treat them alike.

Narmada Valley Corporation

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- *335. { **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:**
Shri R. S. Tiwary:
Shri Bade:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri Jashvant Mehta:
Shri P. R. Patel:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the