

Now it has been expanded to industries which have upto Rs. 25 lakhs as capital investment. They will have to register and in the process of registration, we will know where they are going to be located and there will be no control over it.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

East Pakistan Migrants in Garo Hills

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- S.N.Q. 3. { Shri P. R. Chakraverti;
 Shri Kachhavaiya;
 Shri Y. S. Chaudhary;
 Shri Onkar Lal Berwa;
 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri;
 Shri P. C. Borooah;
 Shri S. M. Banerjee;
 Shri Rishang Keishing;
 Shri Maheswar Naik;

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

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 50,000 migrants have crossed into the Garo Hills and Khasi Jaintia Hills in Assam from East Pakistan;

(b) whether these migrants mostly belong to Hajong and Kachari tribes;

(c) whether they are likely to be settled in the adjoining hill areas, including NEFA; and

(d) what programme has been drawn up to ensure speedy rehabilitation of these fresh migrants to Assam?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) Yes, Sir. About 51,000 had crossed into the Garo Hills and about 1,500 into other districts in Assam upto the 22nd February, 1964.

(b) These migrants are mostly Garos, Hajongs and Koches.

(c) and (d). I am leaving for Assam on the 1st March, 1964 and would be visiting the Garo Hills accompanied by the Chief Minister of Assam. It is proposed to discuss the relief and rehabilitation schemes with the Gov-

ernment of Assam there and take decisions on the spot.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: May I know whether it is a fact that the customs, culture and the ways of life of these people have closer affinity with the people in the areas where they have already migrated?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I take this information from the hon. Member.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: May I know whether the attention of the Minister has been drawn to the bold statement made by President Ayub in Karachi day before yesterday that the members of the Christian community who migrated to India from East Pakistan were now returning to their home? Has it lessened the burden of the Minister?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Amongst the people who have come, the number of Christians is fairly large, according to my information . . .

Some Hon. Members: How large?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: According to my information, I do not think anybody has gone back to East Pakistan. What I have been told by my two officers who went there is that there is a likelihood that a large number of others are also likely to come here.

Mr. Speaker: Has any rough assessment been made?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The number is 35,000 out of 51,000. That is my assessment.

श्री कछवाय : इन लोगों को बसाने के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार और राज्य सरकारें कितना रुपया खर्च करने वाली हैं ? क्या इस काम के लिए कोई धनराशि नियत की गई है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मंत्री महोदय ने अभी बतलाया है कि वे वहाँ पर कल जा रहे हैं और मौके पर पहुंच कर सब चीज देखेंगे व तम करेंगे ।

श्री कछवाय : क्या सरकार ने पहले से तय कर लिया है कि हम इस काम पर इतना रुपया खर्च करेंगे ?

श्री मेहर चन्द खन्ना : अभी मैं ने बतलाया कि मैं कल वहां जा रहा हूँ । चीफ मिनिस्टर असम भी मेरे साथ होंगे । मैं अपने अफसर भी ले जा रहा हूँ और फाइनैस के अफसर भी ले जा रहा हूँ । इरादा यह है कि जितनी भी जल्दी हो सके उनको बसाने का प्रबन्ध किया जाय और जो भी तजावीज हों उन पर वहीं मौके पर बैठ कर फैमला कर लिया जाय ताकि उन अभागे लोगों को कैम्पों में बहुत देर तक न रहना पड़े ।

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : यह जो उधर से लगभग ५०,००० व्यक्ति आये हैं उन सब को असम में ही बसाने का गवर्नमेंट का इरादा है या भारत के अन्य भागों में उनको बसाने की व्यवस्था की जायेगी ?

श्री मेहर चन्द खन्ना : जब तक मैं वहां जा न लूँ और तमाम चीज को देख न लूँ तब तक जवाब देना मेरे लिए मुश्किल है । अलबत्ता यह बात यकीनी है कि जितने भी लोग आये हैं उनको यहां पर बसाना जरूरी है और हम उनको बसायेंगे

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : मैं यह जानना चाहता था

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आर्डर, आर्डर । मंत्री महोदय ने बतला तो दिया है कि वहां वह जाकर उनसे सलाह मशविरा करेंगे और देखेंगे कि कितने लोगों को वहां बसाया जा सकता है और बाकी जो बच रहेंगे उनको भी बसाने के लिए और जगह तलाश करेंगे । लेकिन जब तक वह मौके पर पहुंच न जायें और बातचीत न कर लें तब तक वह इसका जवाब कैसे दे सकते हैं ?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. Minister stated that nearly 51,000 crossed up to 22nd February, 1964 and that he was going there tomorrow or to-

day. I would like to know, before he goes there, and talks to the Chief Minister, what steps have been taken to rehabilitate them temporarily or give them any dole—by the Assam Government—and whether this entire expense is to be borne by the Government of Assam or the Centre is also contributing a portion of it; if so, to what extent?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: So far no rehabilitation measures have been adopted. Over a dozen relief camps have been opened. In these relief camps, according to my information, accommodation will be available for about 10,000 families. The relief expenditure including rehabilitation will be borne by the Government of India.

Shri Swell: Has the Government's attention been drawn to the statement by the World Christian Council in Geneva confirming that a very large number of Christians have fled East Pakistan into Assam; if so, will the Government seek the co-operation of the different Christian organisations all over the world to come to the assistance of these Christian refugees and, will the Government take the opportunity of telling the whole Christian world and exposing East Pakistan in its true colours?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I have seen the report. I have very great sympathy for every refugee who comes out, whether he is a Hindu or a Christian; it is my duty to see that they are properly rehabilitated.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Also Buddhists.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: May I add, Sir, that a few days ago we received a telegram from one of the Christian organisations—I cannot give the name at once—offering us a few thousand pounds of powder milk and some tarpaulins. The idea was that these should be air-lifted to Assam. Necessary action is being taken in the matter.

Mr. Speaker: The suggestion was that some appeal should be issued and it should be broadcast or some propaganda done so that the whole world may know.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister for Information and Broadcasting.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): We are already doing it.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that (a) Assam's economy is not capable of absorbing all these 50,000 or 60,000 refugees and, (b) since there are vast tracts of land available in NEFA, may I know why it is that Government have not considered the proposal of rehabilitating these new tribal migrants into Assam in NEFA and other border areas (a) with a view to give relief to Assam's economy and (b) in order to build up our border defences?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I have already answered this question fully that I am going there, the Chief Minister would be there, the Finance officers would be there and that we are going to Garo Hills and staying there for two days with the idea of looking into the problem and seeing to what extent it can be resolved in the State itself.

Shri Nath Pai: The hon. Minister has stated that two officers of his Ministry have visited these refugees. May we know whether the causes that led to the fleeing of these very large number of Christians from Pakistan are religious persecution and communal frenzy, of which the first victims were the Hindus but now all the non-Muslim minorities in Pakistan are being persecuted? May we know whether this is a fact?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: According to the report given to me by these two officers, the reasons for migration as was ascertained from the local officers are, (1) looting and arson of the properties of the minorities in East Pakistan, (2) molestation of

women and (3) feelings aroused against the members of the minority community in East Pakistan by the infiltrators who had been deported to East Pakistan.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Do we have a clear guarantee from Government that whatever the difficulties of the Assam Government might be, the Minister goes with a determination to see that whatever is necessary for the relief and rehabilitation of these people will be actually done?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I can give this assurance to the House. Besides that, an assurance has already been given by the Home Minister and the Finance Minister, apart from the Prime Minister who has also made a statement on these lines.

Shri H. P. Chatterjee: May I know whether it is a fact that while these refugees were fleeing from Pakistan they were fired at by Pakistan riflemen as a result of which many were dead and many wounded. How many are dead and how many are wounded and what has the Minister done for the wounded?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The Rehabilitation Minister takes charge only of live people who come to Indian territory. The moment they become refugees they become my charge. The rest of the matter may be the concern of the External Affairs and Home Ministries.

Shri H. P. Chatterjee: How many are wounded?

Mr. Speaker: He has no knowledge or that.

Shri Basumatari: It is reported that most of the tribals had to leave behind their young and beautiful wives and daughters under coercion. May I know whether the Minister will look into that matter also when he visits that area?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: That would be a matter for consideration either for the External Affairs or Home Ministry.

Shri Tyagi: Could the House have some idea of the number of non-Muslims killed in East Pakistan, because the press is giving the figure of 20,000?

Shri Raghunath Singh: 25,000.

Shri Tyagi: In view of the fact that it is the obvious and deliberate policy of Pakistan to squeeze out every non-Muslim from East Pakistan, we are anxious to know whether the Government is moving in the matter and whether it is trying to move the UNO to intervene in the matter or not?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: It is not within my jurisdiction to answer that question.

Shri Tyagi: What is the answer?

Mr. Speaker: He cannot answer it. A new question should be addressed to the concerned Minister.

Shri Tyagi: Could he not gather some information about the number of people killed? There are so many refugees coming from East Pakistan. Are the Government not making any efforts to get some reliable information in regard to the number of people killed?

Mr. Speaker: He has already answered it. A new question should be addressed to a different Ministry. He does not know it. **Shri Maheswar Naik.**

Shri Swell: Sir, on a point of order.

Shri Tyagi: The Home Minister is present here. He could answer it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have called **Shri Maheswar Naik.**

Shri Maheswar Naik: Apart from rehabilitating and looking after the welfare of the unfortunate people who have fled from Pakistan, what is the Government of India doing for the protection of the life and property as well as the honour of the people who are left behind in Pakistan?

Shri Nath Pai: We are holding prayers.

Mr. Speaker: The Rehabilitation Minister cannot answer that question. **Shri Mirza.**

Shri Bakar Ali Mirza: I gave a Calling Attention notice.

Mr. Speaker: What is the question now?

Shri Bakar Ali Mirza: Before that I have to make a protest, and that is this. On the 24th of February....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Protest against the Speaker?

Shri Bakar Ali Mirza: I gave a Calling Attention notice on this subject a week ago.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He can speak to me about it later; not now.

Shri Swell: Sir, on a point of order..

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Bakar Ali Mirza: On a point of order then, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: After the protest he now raises a point of order!

Shri Bakar Ali Mirza: The point of order is this. A calling attention notice was given by me on the very same question on the 24th February, nearly a week back. I did not get any information, excepting that yesterday I was told that the Minister is touring the area and he might give the necessary information next week. Now this question is being answered, though my calling attention notice is not being attended to, and my name does not find a place even in the list.

Mr. Speaker: I have called him to put the question. He would have been entitled only to this one, that he may put a question. Now, instead of putting a question, he is raising a point of order.

Shri Swell: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: What is the other point of order?

Shri Bakar Ali Mirza: Shall I put a question, Sir?

Has the hon. Minister monitored the broadcast from BBC and also read the papers published in England which give an entirely one-sided picture of this whole affairs and go to say that a few Christians left for India and most of them have gone back, while in the French press there is an account of the atrocities committed, rape and all that? May I know what steps Government has taken to bring to the notice of the world the realities of the situation? The Government wants a week's time to answer a simple question when the whole world is discussing this.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: As I have said, the number of Christians is fairly large and, according to me, more are likely to come out. None of them is likely to go back. (*Interruption*).

Shri Hem Barua: The Pakistan Radio is very active. (*Interruption*).

Shri Nath Pai: There is an aspect of this question which should be answered by the External Affairs Ministry. Sir, I seek your protection. There is one aspect of the question which needs to be answered by the External Affairs Minister.

Mr. Speaker: Now, this complete information cannot be elicited by means of this question. I have already spent 15 minutes on this. If the Members are so anxious, they can raise the discussion in some other form. We are taking up the General Budget and they might in their speeches press that point.

Shri Bade: When there is not sufficient land for rehabilitating the newcomers, will the Minister of Rehabilitation move the Pakistan Government by sending insipid and impotent protest notes that they want more land for the rehabilitation of these persons?

Mr. Speaker: This contagion is spreading very much.

Shri Swell: Sir, I seek your guidance. Day before yesterday I had raised the same point with the Home Minister and today also I put the same question to the Minister of Rehabilitation. But no answer has come. May I request that the Minister of Rehabilitation convey it to the Prime Minister, or you, Sir, convey it to the Prime Minister that he may kindly make a statement on this question of seeking the help of the outside world and educating the Christian world about the treatment of Pakistan towards minorities?

Mr. Speaker: These are suggestions. (*Interruptions*).

Some Hon. Members: *rose—*

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Bade: So many questions are put to the Minister and he is sitting silent. What is the use of asking these questions?

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow any more questions on this.

Shri A. P. Jain: No question; a clarification. . . .

Shri Raghunath Singh: Only one clarification.

Mr. Speaker: I would request them to find other means.

Shri Hem Barua: We want your guidance, Sir. It is the interest of the country. . . .

Mr. Speaker: I cannot give advice to the hon. Members. I am here to decide the issues when they come up. Papers to be laid on the Table. . . .

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Export of Tea to France

*354. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of International Trade be pleased to state:

(a) whether France has recently approved the proposal to reduce