

Pak Deputy High Commissioner's visit to Malda District

- *261. { Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri B. K. Das:
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan Deputy High Commissioner in India was allowed to visit Malda District in West Bengal in the first week of April, 1962; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The normal practice is that Representatives of foreign countries stationed in Calcutta can visit freely any part of the State without any prior permission. They are merely required to give prior intimation of their itinerary to the Government of West Bengal. In this case the Pakistan Deputy High Commissioner at Calcutta specifically requested for permission to visit the District of Malda which was accorded to him by the State Government in consultation with the Government of India. He communicated his itinerary to the State Government, who in turn, made the necessary arrangements for his tour of the area.

Rehabilitation of Refugees in West Bengal

*262. Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds under different heads have been made available to the West Bengal Government for refugee rehabilitation;

(b) whether it is a fact that the State Government does not agree to the suggestion implied in the decision to wind up the Union Rehabilitation

Ministry that the East Pakistan refugee problem has been solved;

(c) whether the assessment of the residual problem in rehabilitation of refugees in Eastern region has been completed; and

(d) if so, whether a copy of the assessment report will be laid on the Table?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) Funds are made available to the West Bengal Government for rehabilitation from year to year in accordance with the amounts sanctioned in the budget. Rs. 461.98 lakhs have been provided in the budget for 1962-63.

(b) No decision as yet has been taken to wind up the Department of Rehabilitation.

(c) The final assessment in respect of West Bengal has not been made so far.

(d) Does not arise.

Steel prices in U.S.A.

*263. Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to recent reports of rise in steel prices in U.S.A.:

(b) whether the Third Five Year Plan will be affected thereby; and

(c) if so, in what manner and to what extent?

The Minister of Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri Nanda): (a) to (c). The question will be answered by the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries on a subsequent date.

Allocation of Fund for Manipur During Second Plan

*264. Shri Bishang Keshing: Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state: