

Dandakaranya Rehabilitation Scheme

*8. { Shri A. K. Gopalan:
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:
 Shri Jagdish Awasthi:
 Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shri Jagannatha Rao:
 Shri Vajpayee:

Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 132 on the 14th November, 1957 and state:

(a) whether the team of specialists have completed their survey of the area selected for the Dandakaranya Rehabilitation Scheme;

(b) if so, whether the report has been submitted to Government; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 1.]

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know whether it is proposed to send the refugees from now and if so how many?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: We hope to make a start with a small colony of about a hundred persons before the onset of the monsoon.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of the Dandakaranya scheme being obviously long-term, will the Government tell us that in the meantime lands in West Bengal and in the neighbourhood would be reclaimed for rehabilitation purposes?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: We are going ahead with plans mostly outside West Bengal because in West Bengal there are hardly any lands available.

Shri Hem Barua: Is it a fact that 80,000 acres of land are already reclaimed and 14,000 families from East Pakistan are going to be rehabilitated there and Rs. 10 crores had already been sanctioned for the purpose?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I do not know where the hon. Member got the information from. I have just stated that we are going to make a small start with about a hundred families in Pharasgaon area in the near future.

Shri D. C. Sharma: The statement refers to the work on the first reclamation and settlement project. How many such projects will constitute the whole scheme?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The area is about 80,000 square miles—I think, three times the size of West Bengal. It will take a very long time before I can answer that question.

Shri Vajpayee: Has any detailed scheme been prepared for the development of communications in this area?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Yes, Sir. We are looking into this matter and an integrated scheme will be prepared covering all these aspects, including communications.

Shri Panigrahi: Last time, the hon. Minister told us that 500 refugees would be taken to this area for resettlement in the pilot project. Have they gone there?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: If it is considered that a family comprises of about five persons, when I talked about 100 families, 500 persons will be covered. I have just stated that we are taking up that scheme.

Shri V. C. Shukla: Is it a fact that Jagdalpur was previously selected as the headquarters of the scheme and now it is contemplated to change it to Koraput? If so, may I know the reason?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: By headquarters, possibly it is meant that it would be the area from which the Chief Administrator will function. If so, one will be Jagdalpur and the other will be Koraput. We are not giving up one in favour of the other.

Shri Dasappa: What is the total number of people that are going to be rehabilitated in that area?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I wish I could tell the hon. Member, I have said that it is a scheme which requires to be looked into and examined and I am hoping that all the surplus population that we have got in West Bengal may be taken to this area. (*Interruptions*). I am talking about the refugee population.

Shri Goray: May I know the method of selection?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I have got 3,50,000 persons in camps today and I give topmost priority to the camp inmates.

Textile Industry in Bombay

*7. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had any discussions with the Chief Minister of Bombay on the growing crisis in the Textile Industry;

(b) if so, the decisions taken; and

(c) whether similar discussion is likely to take place with the Chief Minister of U.P.?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) There was a general review of the situation in the textile industry arising out of the closure of shifts or establishments but no decisions were taken. As the situation has to be kept under constant review the Labour Ministry has set up an Inter-departmental working group to study the problem and make suggestions to deal with such situations.

(c) The situation in U.P. is being watched and if necessity arises the matter will be discussed with the Chief Minister of U.P.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether this crisis is genuine or created by some interested agencies to sabotage our production target in the Second Plan and also force the workers to accept rationalisation and wage freeze under threats of retrenchment and closure?

Shri Abid Ali: No such complaints have been received.

Shri Jadhav: What is the total number of employees thrown out of employment?

Shri Abid Ali: About 20,000.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether the Government has any idea of the productivity of labour per unit in the textile industry in the last two years? Has it increased or decreased?

The Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri Nanda): This does not arise out of it but I may inform the hon. Member that it is very difficult to measure precisely the changes in productivity. But, there is evidence that it has improved.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: In view of the fact that there is this crisis as the hon. Member has pointed out and there are forced retrenchments and so on, what are the reasons for these? Has productivity of labour decreased or has the tempo in the country gone down?

Shri Nanda: In the case of some units regarding which we have some information about closure, the decision is mostly because they are uneconomical units. It may be the accumulated effect of mismanagement in the past or the condition of the machinery. They cannot be run with profit.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: How many people are effected by this crisis in Bombay?

Shri Abid Ali: As I have said the total affected is 20,000. For Bombay it will be about 9,700.

Shri Senavane: As a result of the general review with the Chief Minister of Bombay, what steps are contemplated to be taken to start the Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Mills where more than 5,000 employees have been thrown out of employment?

Shri Nanda: This question is being repeated and I think the Commerce and Industry Ministry have also been