

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: What is the position in regard to the negotiations held between the representatives of the Dundee Jute Association, who came recently to Calcutta, and the Indian Jute Association?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This really does not arise out of this question but we have continuous negotiations with different world jute interests from time to time. Those are implemented by the Indian Jute Association on our side and the Dundee Jute Association on their side.

Shri Joachim Alva: As the hon. Minister said just now that they have no information about this move, may I ask if they know about the report that appeared in the London Economist mentioning that Pakistan insisted on the transfer of these British firms and the Economist went so far as to say that it was improper to force their firms and other firms in Calcutta to open offices in Pakistan? At least after knowing about this have Government taken the trouble to have consultations with the British and other offices in Calcutta and devise some measures.

Shri Manubhai Shah: If he hon. Member looks into this question he will find that this is the question of export of Pakistan jute to London via Calcutta. It is the legitimate desire of every country to develop its own export trade through its own offices. It is a minor question and our national interests are not harmed.

Pakistani Nationals in Punjab

*1691. **Shri Daljit Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state;

(a) the total number of Pakistani nationals who visited various places in Punjab during 1957;

(b) the number of those who overstayed even after the expiry of their visas during the same period; and

(c) the number of cases in which visas were extended?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) 34,163.

(b) 710.

(c) 137.

Shri Daljit Singh: May I know whether the facilities given in India are given in Pakistan to Indians?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: I could not follow the question.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether the facilities given to Pakistani nationals in India are given to our nationals in Pakistan.

The Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The agreement applies to both sides. Whether in individual cases it is given or not, is an individual matter.

Shri Daljit Singh: Generally when a request is made by Indians to visit Hindu and Sikh shrines in Pakistan, the Pakistan Government delays its permission or replies at the nick of the time on account of which the Indians cannot be prepared to go. May I know whether Government propose to appoint a special officer to avoid such difficulties?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not understand how a special officer here can prevent difficulties arising out of delays in Pakistan offices.

Shri Hem Barua: Is it a fact that Pakistani nationals, who come here on visas, after coming to this country get themselves lost among their community men here then tear off their visas and it becomes difficult to unearth them?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That has happened sometimes.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how many of the Pakistani nationals who applied for permission were refused such permission, and how

many of the Indians who applied for permission to go to Pakistan were refused permits?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: Sir, I require notice to answer that question.

Displaced Persons at Sealdah Station

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*1692. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Tangamani:
Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan

Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of displaced persons from East Pakistan has increased in Sealdah Station since February, 1958; and

(b) if so, steps taken by Government to rehabilitate them?

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) It is not possible to supply the required information till a fresh census is made.

(b) The question of the rehabilitation of eligible displaced families can only be considered after a decision to clear the Sealdah Station has been taken.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether a conference of the Rehabilitation Ministers—Central and State and the representatives of all political parties in West Bengal is likely to be held to solve the refugee problem of West Bengal?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I have no information on the subject.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether there is such a proposal, because you have been saying to us: "If my friends opposite co-operate". I am asking this question whether there is any proposal whether you wish to hold a conference of the Rehabilitation Ministers along with the representatives of all political parties.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I have neither received any proposal of that

nature nor is one under my consideration.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether he could assess the number of refugees, and when that particular number will be available to this House?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Last time when we took the census the number involved was round about 7,000. Of them, refugee families with some kind of documents was 919 and the families without any documents—from my point of view, possibly non-refugees—was 1016.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know how many of these refugees have been given rehabilitation doles?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: There is no question of giving any rehabilitation doles to the Sealdah Station refugees—that is not my camp.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know what has happened to the promise of the hon. Minister, about September last year, that he is taking effective steps to rehabilitate the displaced persons now lodged in Sealdah Station? May I know whether he has changed his mind, or he is likely to take some more time to formulate a clear-cut policy?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I have no idea about the promise that the hon. Member is referring to; but the question of clearance of Sealdah Station has been under our constant consideration.

Shri Tangamani: The hon. Minister stated that there are as many as 919 families consisting of 3708 members at the Sealdah Station who are genuine refugees, but the others have not got the proper documents. May I know what steps Government propose to take for at least housing these 919 families?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I did not say that they were all genuine refugees; they have got some kind of documentary evidence with them. Some of them have deserted from