

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 7, 1960/Agrahayana 16, 1882 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Assam Situation

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Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Tangamani:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Rajendra Singh:
Shri Subiman Ghose:
Shri Sadhan Gupta:
*744. Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Aurobindo Ghoshal:
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
Shri Halder:
Shrimati Renuka Ray:
Shri C. K. Bhatlacharya:
Shri Kalika Singh:
Shri Bimal Ghose:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Assar:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the nature and details of action taken by Assam Government to rehabilitate the refugees of the recent riots in Assam;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to investigate into the conduct of State officers involved in the linguistic disturbances; and

(c) the result thereof?

1503(Ai) LS-1.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): (a) A short note on the Assam Government's policy on rehabilitation of disturbance affected people is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 1].

(b) and (c). Enquiries are being made into the conduct of officers during the July disturbances. So far action has been taken against 25 officers of whom 23 have been placed under suspension and departmental proceedings are being drawn up against them. A commission of inquiry consisting of a High Court Judge has been appointed to enquire into the happenings on the 4th July, 1960 at Gauhati and a similar commission of inquiry has been appointed to enquire into and report on the incidents that occurred in the first week of July 1960 at Goreswar.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. Prime Minister said in this House that unless a proper atmosphere was created it will not be possible to have a fuller enquiry into the details which led to the riots. I want to know whether that atmosphere now prevails and whether a detailed enquiry will be held to ascertain the basic facts leading to the riots?

Shri G. B. Pant: The atmosphere has improved considerably and I hope no action will be taken by anyone to disturb it or to make it worse than it is.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether due protection has been given to those who have gone back to Assam and, if so, what positive steps have been taken to protect their lives and property and whether any compensation has been paid to those who have lost their property?

Shri G. B. Pant: The persons who have returned are living in their homes and doing their work, and there is no sense of apprehension so far as they are concerned according to the information that I have received.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that the number of refugees in West Bengal varies with the computation of the Assam Government, and if so, whether the Government have tried to ascertain whether it is not a fact that some spurious elements from the vagrant population of West Bengal have joined the camps there and imposed themselves on the refugees of Assam? If so, may I know what steps do the Government propose to take to isolate them from the real refugees?

Shri G. B. Pant: According to the information that we have, the people who are in the camps there have migrated to those camps from Assam. There are others also who are living with their friends and relatives; there might be some doubt about the absolute accuracy of the figures regarding the latter, but as to the former, there need not be any doubt.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to three demands made by the Assam refugees at present in West Bengal, namely, first, that full compensation should be paid for the losses suffered; second, the rehabilitation of the refugees into consolidated Bengali colonies in Assam; and third, an assurance of protection in future? I want to know whether these demands have been brought to the notice of the Government and, if so, what steps do the Government propose to take to fulfil these demands?

Shri G. B. Pant: An assurance of protection for the future, I think, is a perfectly legitimate demand after the experience that some of them had to go through during the disturbances and any assistance that can be given for their rehabilitation has also to be quite appropriate.

Shri Hem Barua: What about the other two points—the demand for full compensation for the losses suffered and the demand for rehabilitation in consolidated Bengali colonies?

Shri G. B. Pant: Many demands are being made by many people and we do not scrutinise everything.²

Shri Assar: In the statement it is said that 3,700 persons have returned to Assam. May I know what efforts are made by the Government to make other refugees also go back to their homes?

Shri G. B. Pant: Out of the 79,000, all have gone back to their homes except 331 who have not returned because they were invalids and the civil surgeon advised them to stay where they were.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: May I know whether the Government have ascertained the effect of the adoption of Assamese as the only language for the State by the Assembly on the people who are not Assamese-speaking and who are either speaking the hill languages or are Bengali-speaking?

Shri G. B. Pant: It has not been liked by them.

Shri Tangamani: In the statement, it is said that out of 58,000 people who had moved to West Bengal, 27,000 are in West Bengal camps. May I know whether all of them have returned?

Mr. Speaker: He said so twice—except 331, all others have returned.

Shri G. B. Pant: That is about the people who were in camps in Assam. About the people who were in camps in Bengal, according to one information, nearly 34,000 have returned and according to another report that we have, the number is said to be larger. So, I am not mentioning the other number.

Shri Tangamani: About the inquiry that has been started, is it only that one inquiry which was referred to by

the hon. Home Minister or, is it the inquiry about the other incidents referred to by the Prime Minister in the course of the discussion?

Shri G. B. Pant: The enquiry to go into the deeper causes is yet to follow. That has not been taken up.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: May I know whether the hon. Home Minister gave any advice to the Assam Government as to the language or languages they should adopt for the State and, if so, what advice did he give?

Mr. Speaker: How does all that arise here?

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: That was the question I sent, but my name has been clubbed with this, without any of my questions being mentioned in the list. If it is checked, it will be found that that was the question which I sent, though it is not stated in the list of questions published in spite of my name having been clubbed here. That was the particular thing that I wanted to know, namely, whether the hon. Home Minister gave any advice to them regarding the language formula and, if so, what advice did he give.

Shri G. B. Pant: So far as the complaint made by the hon. Member is concerned, that would be an argument for striking off his name from this question and not for putting a question which does not arise out of it.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: My name may be struck off from this and my question may be put in as a separate item.

Shri G. B. Pant: I have no objection.

Mr. Speaker: If he can only write a letter, I would like to take it up if it is a different question altogether.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know when the committee to inquire into the basic causes of the disturbances is to be appointed and what will be the nature of the constitution of this committee?

Shri G. B. Pant: The constitution has not yet been determined; the committee will be appointed at the appropriate time.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know the reason why the inquiry over the Goreshwar incident took place?

Shri G. B. Pant: The disturbance took a very serious turn in Goreshwar and it was considered necessary to have such an inquiry.

Shrimati Mafida Ahmed: The statement indicates that nearly 27,000 are in West Bengal camps still. In view of the extremely normal situation in Assam, may I know what positive steps are taken by the West Bengal Government to stop the influx of the floating population?

Shri G. B. Pant: The West Bengal Government would be happy if more people did not flow into their State, which is already under heavy strain. But I do not know how they can prevent anyone from coming to Bengal from any part of India.

Institute for Precision Technicians

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*745. { **Shri Inder J. Malhotra:**
Shri Bahadur Singh:

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether any offer for assistance from Switzerland, has been made for setting up a training institute for precision mechanics and technicians for instrument industry;

(b) whether the assistance will be in form of personnel and equipment;

(c) if so, the details of it;

(d) whether any location has been decided upon to start this training institute; and

(e) the total amount involved in this project?

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir,