

Abolition of Portfolio of Minority Affairs

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*633. { **Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri P. G. Deb:

Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India have decided to abolish the portfolio of Minority Affairs;

(b) whether a Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman made a statement in this respect saying that Government of India's action was unwarranted and against the terms of the Nehru-Liaquat Pact;

(c) whether Pakistan has already closed down its Department of Minority Affairs which was against the terms of the Nehru-Liaquat Pact; and

(d) the reaction of the Government of India to part (b) above?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) The portfolio of Minority Affairs has already been abolished.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d).

The fact is that in March, 1961, a communication was received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, Government of Pakistan, Dacca Branch, that the Pakistan Government had decided to close down their office for Minority Affairs, and that all future correspondence should be conducted through normal diplomatic channels. This unilateral decision was taken by the Pakistan Government without any prior indication or consultation with us and was in utter violation of the terms of the Nehru-Liaquat Pact. After this, we had no alternative but to close down our Minority Affairs office at Calcutta.

Shrimati Maimoona Sultan: May I know whether it is a fact that a large number of refugees from the occupied area of Kashmir have come to our side, and if so, the number of such refugees, and the steps that Government have taken to rehabilitate them?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): I think the hon. Member is not fully conversant with the duties of the Minister of Minority Affairs. They only relate to the eastern region, and they do not cover the whole of India. This portfolio of Minister of Minority Affairs was created as a result of the Nehru-Liaquat Pact in 1950, which covered West Bengal and East Pakistan.

Berubari

*633-A. { **Shri Subiman Ghose:**
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri P. G. Deb:
Shri N. R. Muniswamy:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the portion of Berubari to be given to Pakistan has been fixed;

(b) if so, the square mile of the said area;

(c) if not, when it is expected to be finalised; and

(d) when and where the officers of the two countries are expected to meet for its finalisation?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) No, Sir. It has been agreed, generally, that the northern half of the Berubari Union No. 12, adjacent to India, will remain with India and the southern half will be transferred to Pakistan.

(b) The area thus to be transferred to Pakistan will be roughly 4 square miles. The exact area can be

determined only after full field survey has been carried out.

(c) and (d). Determination of the exact dividing line and the mechanics of demarcation on the ground are currently under discussion between the respective Directors of Land Records & Surveys of West Bengal and East Pakistan. The latest meeting between these officers was scheduled to be held at Dacca on 29th and 30th November, 1961. Information as to the details settled at this meeting is awaited from the Government of West Bengal.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether any assessment has been made as to the number of families likely to be uprooted after handing it over to Pakistan?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I cannot give any exact figure now. But previously we have answered this question. The total population of this area is about 12,000. The number involved is probably 5,000, depending on where the demarcation line is drawn up.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: I would like to know whether, of this number, those who would like to come over to West Bengal or to India will be permitted to do so, and whether their rehabilitation will be the responsibility of Government?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Those who wish to come over will certainly be permitted to come over and they will be given help to rehabilitate themselves. To what extent, I cannot at present say.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: An adjournment motion was tabled here in respect of an incident when two of our officers were stopped at the customs checkpost at Darsana and some papers were seized from them. I want to know whether any reply has been received from Pakistan about this.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As far as I can understand the hon. Member's question referring to these papers, we have received no information. But it is said in the newspapers that the papers have been returned by the Pakistan Government.

May I add a sentence to my previous answer in reply to the question by Shrimati Renu Chakravarty about their rehabilitation? It is proposed to rehabilitate them in the Berubari Union on the Indian side.

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Investment in Industries under Schedule 'A'

*618. **Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 521 on the 16th August, 1961 and state:

(a) in how many cases foreign private capital has been permitted to be invested in industries under Schedule 'A' of the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 and the details thereof; and

(b) in how many cases foreign private capital has been permitted to have more than 50 per cent holdings in joint ventures and the details thereof?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) After the announcement of Industrial Policy Resolution, foreign private capital has been permitted to be invested in 3 industrial units, which are covered under Schedule 'A' of the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956.

They are:—

- (i) Metal Corporation of India Ltd., for establishment of Zinc Smelter.